Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 01252 091739Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01
/073 W
----------015287 091754Z /50
P R 090715Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3562
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1252

TOKYO FOR RFA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PP, XU
SUBJECT: PNG WANTS BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT

1. GPNG APPEARS TO BE DIGGING IN ITS HEELS ON QUESTION OF BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT AND OUTLOOK FOR US TUNA BOATS IN PNG WATERS IS DOUBTFUL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE CALLED ME IN AUG 9 TO TELL ME THAT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY (CHAN) HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY WARNING THAT IF US TUNA VESSELS FISHED IN PNG WATERS THEY WOULD BE PICKED UP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 01252 091739Z

AND PENALTIES OF LAW WOULD APPLY TO THEM. I SAID I HAD BEEN OUT OF TOWN FOR TWO WEEKS AND WAS NOT CURRENTLY INFORMED BUT BELIEVED SOME AMERICAN TUNA BOATS HAD APPLIED FOR LICENSES BUT NOT RECEIVED THEM. IF LICENSES WERE ISSUED, THIS WOULD TAKE CARE OF PROBLEM. I SAID I WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AND GET BACK TO HIM.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

3. I LEARNED THAT ONE US TUNA BOAT, VOYAGEUR, IS NOW OPERATING IN PNG WATERS UNDER SURVEY LICENSE AND THAT VAN CAMP HAD ASKED FOR LICENSES FOR SIX TUNA BOATS BUT WAS PUT OFF PENDING INTERNAL GPNG DECISION ON CHARGES. I CONVEYED THIS INFO TO OLEWALE TODAY.

4. OLEWALE REPLIED THAT HE HAD TALKED FURTHER WITH CHAN AND POINT HE WANTED TO MAKE IS THAT GPNG WANTS BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT WITH US (LIKE ONE WITH JAPAN) AND DOES NOT INTEND TO ISSUE LICENSES UNLESS A BILATERAL AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. HE WAS VERY FIRM.

5. I POINTED OUT THAT THE USG DOES NOT AS A MATTER OF POLICY NEGOTIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES. I SAID THAT WE HAD EXPLAINED OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER IN A RECENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE. I SAID THAT FURTHER I THOUGHT THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE SPRFO WORKED OUT AT SUVA WOULD SHORTLY OBVIATE THE NEED FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

6. OLEWALE SAID GPNG FROM FIRST HAD BEEN DETERMINED TO CONTROL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO ITS WATERS. SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF SOVEREIGNTY. HE BECAME QUITE VEHEMENT, SAYING HE THOUGHT USG SHOULD SHOW A MORE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE TO NEW NATIONS OF SOUTH PACIFIC. HE SAID USG WAS GIVING ALMOST NOTHING CONFIDENTIAL

IN AID TO SOUTH PACFIC NATIONS, IT HAD DEMANDED RIGHT TO BECOME MEMBER OF SPRFO AND NOW IT WAS REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT. I SAID THAT THE USG HAD GREAT RESPECT TO PNG'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HAD BEST OF GOOD FEELINGS TOWARDS PNG. HOWEVER, I SAID WE ARE BOUND BY OUR DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN THAT LEGISLATION IS MINIMAL.

7. OLEWALE SAID US APPEARED TO BE INFLEXIBLE IN ITS APPROACH. HE SAID OUR TWO COUNTRIES APPEARED TO BE ON A COLLISION COURSE. I SAID I WAS AWARE THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE PENALTY CLAUSES IN US FISHERIES LEGISLATION HAD BECOME SORE POINT WITHIN GPNG (HE NODDED) BUT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE I MUST POINT OUT THAT GPNG COULD BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE US MARKET WHICH NOW BUYS 85 PERCENT OF PNG'S TUNA. HE SAID IF THE USG DECIDED TO PROHIBIT PNG FISH FROM ENTERING THE US MARKET THE GPNG WOULD ACCEPT THIS PROHIBITION AND SELL ITS FISH ELSEWHERE.

8. THIS WAS THE ROUGHEST INTERVIEW I HAVE YET HAD WITH ANY GPNG OFFICIAL.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

9. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED A SUDDEN HARDENING OF GPNG'S ATTITUDE AND BELIEVE IT STEMS FROM CHAN. CHAN WAS RECENTLY IN SEOUL ON A LONG OFFICAL VISIT, AND HE MAY HAVE PICKED UP SOME IDEA FROM GROK OFFICIALS.

10. WE EXPECT THE SITUATION TO BECOME MORE DIFFICULT WHEN IT BECOMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT RESIDENT STARKIST COMPANY IS ENJOYING EXCEPTIONALLY RICH HARVEST OF TUNA IN PNG WATERS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS YEAR'S CATCH WILL FAR SURPASS ANY PREVIOUS YEAR, AND THIS CAN ONLY STIMULATE THE ALREADY HIGH INTEREST OF THE US TUNA FLEET.

11. I NEED GUIDANCE ON WHAT TO DO NEXT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PORT M 01252 091739Z

OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM01252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780326-0201
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780882/aaaacqva.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ce4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1791906
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNG WANTS BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT
TAGS: EFIS, PP, XU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ce4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014